

Life Maps

By Jingwei Bu

SALA



Women's &
Children's Hospital
Foundation

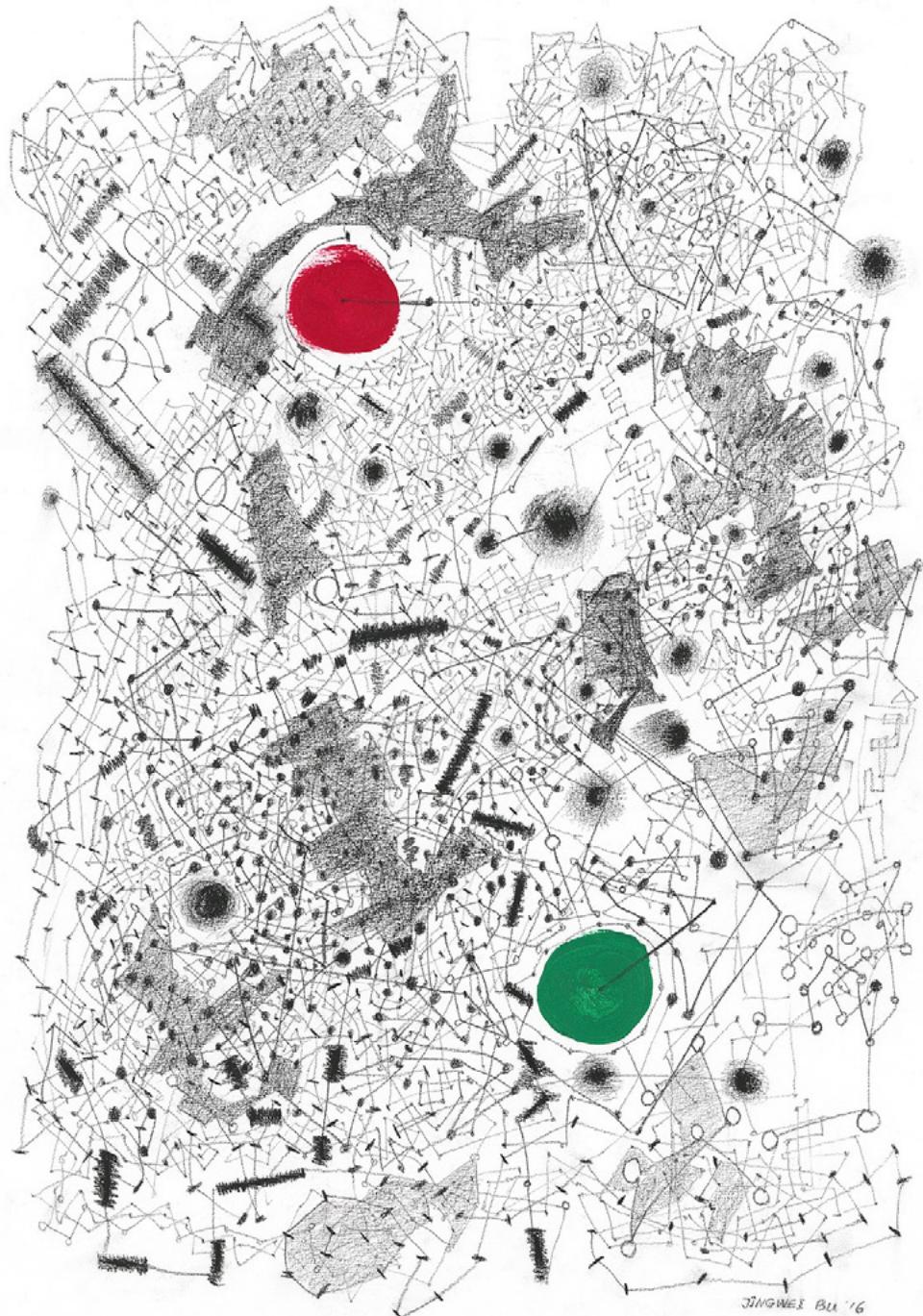


Image: detail of *Life Maps #2*

Life Maps are a series of drawings where artist Jingwei Bu uses mark-making as a way of externalising her inner life, a representation of the accumulated joys and suffering of a life lived.

Jingwei approaches the creation of these meditative drawings in the spirit of time-based performance. Each drawing is allocated a period of time (30 minutes, 1 hour or longer), where Jingwei methodically works her way around the page. This documents her journey into memory, experience and reflection, using instinctive feeling rather than conscious reasoning. The quality of the mark-making varies from intense repetitive lines, to spiral forms, and number sequencing; which evokes a highly personal and idiosyncratic system of thought. Through these works, Jingwei explores her innate curiosity, sensitivity and capacity for immersion and invites viewers to share in the process and result, a hard-won schematic of the soul.

Born in China, Jingwei studied traditional charcoal drawing as a child and went on to develop a career in journalism. Jingwei moved to Germany, with her young children, to support her husband in his new job. Whilst in Germany Jingwei felt the isolation of being in a foreign culture and of no longer being in independent employment. During this time, Jingwei studied some new art techniques that then led to bringing art back into her everyday life – combining drawing and meditation to reflect on the journeys she has made and the lessons learned along the way – the stress and the struggles forming part of the bigger picture. Now Jingwei and her family reside in Adelaide, where she studies at Adelaide Central School of Art and works as a full-time Australian-based visual artist. Jingwei's practice draws on a range of artistic traditions including figuration and abstraction and references both Western and Eastern cultural traditions; extending this to sculpture, performance, photography, poetry, painting and drawing.

During Jingwei's exhibition at the Women's and Children's Hospital she will be undertaking demonstrations of life map creations inviting the Hospital Community to participate in a combined journey or creating their own Life Maps.

Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation is pleased to recognise this exhibition for Mental Health Week 2019. This year the focus is to *Mind Your Health. Your mental health is just as important as your physical health.*
Let's take care of it together.

For more about Jingwei Bu work:
www.bjwcreative.com

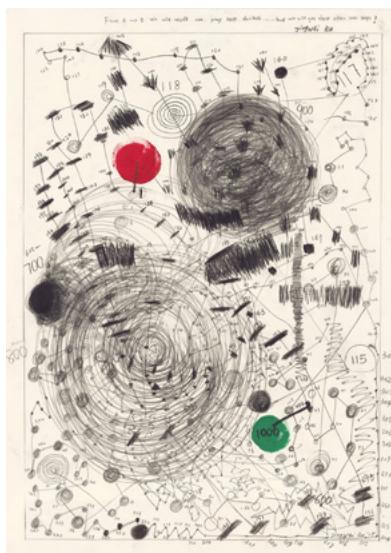


Image: detail of *Life Maps #1*

The Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation (WCH Foundation) raises funds in support of the Women's and Children's Hospital in Adelaide, South Australia. The WCH Foundation is committed to creating greater good, ensuring that mums, children and their families have access to the very best in medical care, hospital facilities and support services at a time when they need it the most.

The WCH Foundation has developed Arts in Health programs to integrate art into the life of the Hospital to improve people's health and wellbeing. We try to make the environment more 'child-friendly', making it look better and help to make the time spent in hospital 'feel better'.

The Arts in Health program delivers a range of activities throughout the hospital across art forms such as: Visual Arts, Digital Media, Music and Performing Arts, Public Art, Literature and the Therapeutic Arts (Play Therapy, Art Therapy and Music Therapy). From providing pencils and colouring books in waiting areas, to managing Gallery spaces and art displays in the Hospital, collaborating with Hospital School on book week activities and working closely with the Play Therapy Team, the Arts in Health program delivers smiles and fun throughout the Hospital.

The WCH Foundation's Gallery program coordinates five galleries in the Hospital, providing a space away from the stresses of treatment to distract, entertain and inspire, improving the visual environment. The artworks displayed in the exhibition spaces come from a range of sources – internally from hospital staff, patients (women & children) and their families, through specific Arts in Health activities and externally from local artists and art collectives.

This exhibition was planned and exhibited on the lands of the Kaurna People, we pay our respects to the Kaurna Elders past and present and to the Elders of the lands this brochure reaches.

Cover image: detail of *Life Map Journey*



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